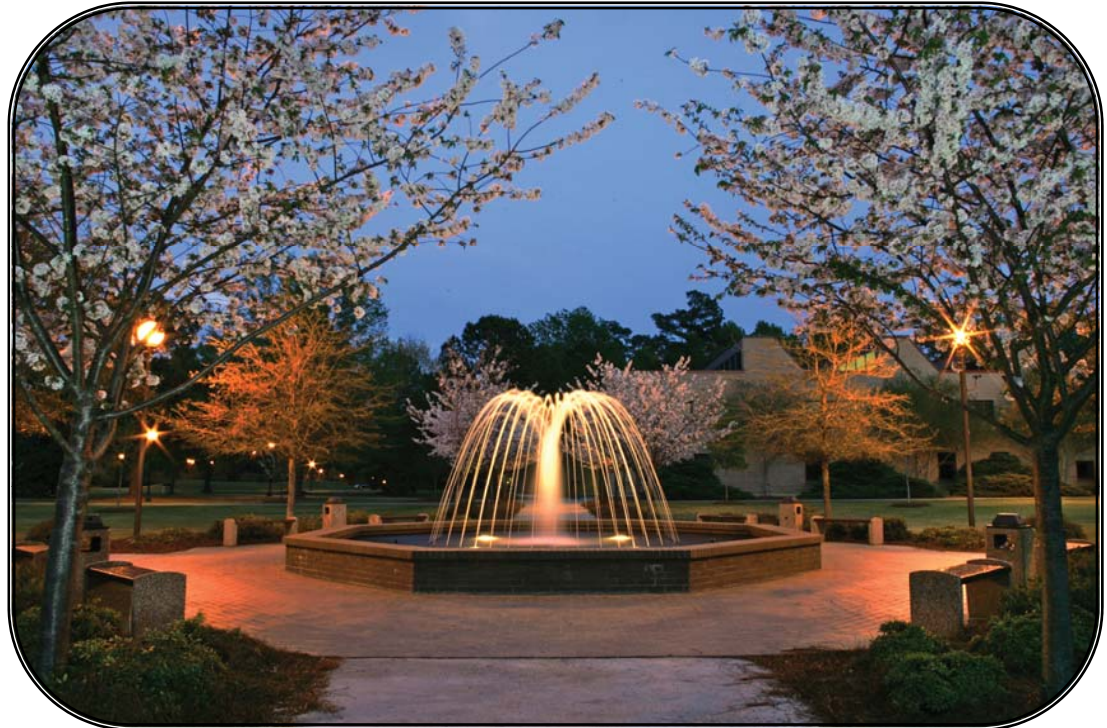


FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY

Report to the Commission on Higher Education

- I. Priorities & Plans for
2009-2010
- II. Budget Requests
2010-2011
- III. Capital Bond Bill
Priorities 2010-2011



I. Priorities & Plans for 2009-2010

I. Strengthen academic programs while coping with reductions in state funding.

- Complete AACSB reaccreditation of School of Business.
- Obtain CHE and SACS approval of Specialist degree in Psychology.
- Maintain faculty staffing levels and where possible enhance faculty staffing in selected academic areas (e.g., new baccalaureate degree in music, teacher education program).
- Plan new offerings in the health care field (e.g., Master of Science in Nursing/Nurse Practitioner initiative).
- Enhance study abroad options for FMU students.

II. Continue pursuit of alternative funding from public and private sources.

- Seek external support from private sources, such as the PSARAS Foundation.
- Seek grant support from the NSF and other public granting entities.

III. Put into operation the Pee Dee Health Education Partnership.

- Complete strategic planning process and identify priorities for Pee Dee Health Education Partnership.
- Involve Pee Dee Health Education Partnership in arrangements for MSN/Nurse Practitioner Program.
- Review feasibility of other collaborative programs in the health care field, such as the Physician Assistant program.

IV. Enhance outreach and applied service activities in the Pee Dee Region.

- Expand the Rural Area Leadership Initiative.
- Establish a Rural Leadership Institute.
- Expand the Advancing Rural Community Health (ARCH) program.
- Establish a middle school summer instructional program for students from rural school districts in the Pee Dee region.
- Strengthen and expand activities of the McNair Center.

V. Support and promote the goals of the statewide Action Plan for Higher Education

- Continue to provide accessible, quality education at an affordable price for in-state students.
- Continue to collaborate with school districts to improve the transition from high school to college and to address the educational needs of the impoverished and minorities.

II. Budget Requests 2010-2011

Nurse Practitioner Program

Francis Marion University requests an appropriation of \$750,000 in recurring funds for its Masters of Science in Nursing-Nurse Practitioner Program to address the following:

- The need for additional education and clinical training to deal with increasingly complex health issues.
- The shortage of faculty in 2 and 4 year programs qualified to teach in technical colleges and 4-year institutions.

Increasing the number of Nurse Practitioners will be of special benefit to the state's rural sections, such as the Pee Dee region where on average there are only one-fourth the number of NPs as in urban areas of the state.

Physician Assistant Degree Program

Francis Marion University requests an appropriation of \$750,000 in recurring funds for its Master's level Physician Assistant Degree Program. FMU is ideally positioned to develop a new PA program to benefit the Pee Dee region and the state through its participation in the Pee Dee Health Education Partnership. Locating the program at FMU and emphasizing the care of vulnerable populations would significantly improve the chances that PA students would choose to practice in the Pee Dee region and help meet the health care needs of this impoverished and rural area of South Carolina.

III. Capital Bond Bill Priorities 2010-2011

School of Education/School of Business Building

This project is to construct an approximately 61,000 square foot building for the School of Education and the School of Business, FMU's largest undergraduate and graduate degree programs. This building will provide 13 classrooms, 1 distance learning classroom, 4 computer labs, 1 open computer laboratory, 4 project rooms, a teaching materials center, 50 faculty offices, 2 deans' offices and various support staff facilities. This request includes one-time funding of \$23,250,000 for construction, start-up equipment and furnishings. Funding of \$750,000 was provided in fiscal year 2000 for architectural and engineering design.

Founders Hall Renovation

This project is to renovate the 76,366 square foot Founders Hall, the University's oldest classroom building. Renovation will address items of facility renewal such as replacement of the HVAC and lighting systems for improved energy efficiency, replacement of carpeting, ceilings, interior finishes, door locks, and classroom seating. The renovation will also effect recurring cost savings to the University through replacement of energy-inefficient HVAC and lighting systems and subsequent decreases in preventative maintenance and deferred maintenance costs. This request includes one-time funding of \$8,000,000 for renovation of the facility.